

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01605 101649Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SSM-05

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-----110330Z 108448 /14

R 101527Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2133

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1605

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SURVEY FOR MARCH 8-9, 1977

1. MEDIA DOMINATED BY 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAATHI RULE IN SYRIA AND PRESIDENT ASAD'S ATTENDENCE AT AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT IN CAIRO. MARCH 8 AL-BAATH BANNERED LIST OF "REVOLUTION'S" ACHIEVEMENTS" OVER PAST YEAR AND STRESSED PRESIDENT ASAD'S LEADERSHIP AND ROLE OF "COORECTIVE MOVEMENT" (ASAD'S OUSTING OF JADID) IN SYRIA'S PRESENT POLICIES. HEADLINES EXCERPTED FROM BAATH NATIONAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE FOCUSED ON OCTOBER WAR, SYRIA'S ROLE IN LEBANON, UNITY EFFORTS WITH JORDAN AND OTHER ARAB STATES, AND FINALLY ATTACKS ON IRAQI REGIME. AL-BAATH MARCH 9 PRINTED VERBATIM SPEECHES MADE BY INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING THE BAATH PARTY, POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 01605 101649Z

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT AT RALLY HELD AT GENERAL CONFEDERATION LABOR UNION'S HEADQUARTERS IN DAMASCUS. SPEECHES ALL ADHERED TO MAIN THEMES LAID DOWN IN BAATH PARTY STATEMENT, I.E., SYRIA SAVED LEBANON FROM PARTITION AND PLO FROM DESTRUCTION; LED IN EFFORTS TOWARDS PAN-ARABISM THROUGH LINKS WITH JORDAN, EGYPT AND SUDAN, AND ACCOMPLISHED ALL THIS WHILE FENDING OFF IRAQI TREACHERY.

2. ON OCCASION OF ANNIVERSARY OF THE "REVOLUTION" NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS PUBLISHED WITH PROMINENT PERSONALITIES EXTOLLING REVOLUTION'S GAINS AND IMPORTANCE OF "CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT" TO THE REVOLUTION. TISHRIIN PUBLISHED SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT CARRYING REPORTS ON VARIOUS POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS, INTERVIEWS WITH SEVERAL MINISTERS AS WELL AS REVIEW OF SOME DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS.

3. MEDIA CONCENTRATED ON SHOWING ASAD AS ONE OF KEY PARTICIPANTS IN AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT. ASAD DEPICTED IN PHOTOS ENGAGING IN SUMMITRY WITH HUSSEIN, SADAT, AND ARAFAT AND DELIVERING SPEECH TO CONFERENCE. KHADDAM IN STATEMENTS TO THAWRA PREDICTED SUCCESS FOR THE CONFERENCE AND DECLARED "SYRIA HAD EXERTED INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO OVERCOME MANY PERIPHERAL DIFFERENCES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY ON THE ARAB SIDE."

4. PRESS GAVE SUPRISINGLY PERFUNCTORY TREATMENT TO HUSSEIN-ARAFAT MEETING IN CAIRO. SMALL ARTICLES APPEARED ON FRONT PAGES REPORTING MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE. ARTICLES SAID HUSSEIN WELCOMED ARAFAT VISIT TO AMMAN AT ANY TIME. PALESTINIAN SOURCE QUOTED SAYING THAT "DURING MEETING JOINT RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S STEADFASTNESS IN OCCUPIED LAND WAS DISCUSSED." SOURCE DESCRIBED MEETING AS RETURNING PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS TO RIGHT TRACK.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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